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2008-2009 Fire Safety Requirements for Fairs, Carnivals, Special Events, Etc.

Dear Vendors, Committee Chairpersons, and Event Planners:

As we enter into the season for fairs, carnivals and other special events, staff from the Office of the County Fire Marshal would like to apprise or remind you of important fire safety changes to the 2006 State Fire Prevention Code that may affect your planning of events which include, but are not limited to, concerts, carnivals, fairs and other types of public gatherings for entertainment or amusement. There are important fire safety requirements included in the attached document pertaining to cooking operations, crowd managers, and tents.

The Fire Marshal's Office has been inspecting and assisting with the planning of many events held in Frederick County each year. If your organization is having or planning an event in which the public will be attending, please contact the County Fire Marshal's Office (301-600-1479) to ensure compliance with the Fire Prevention Code and to prevent unnecessary delays or problems associated with the event.

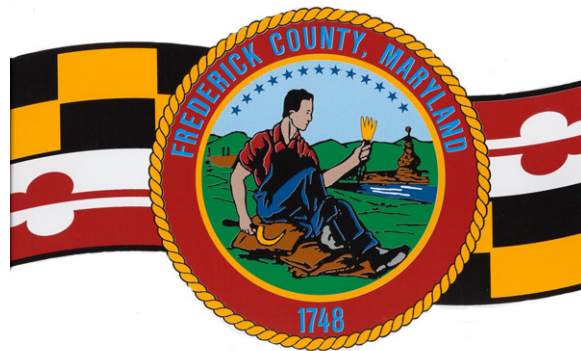
It is the intent of the County Fire Marshal's Office to conduct random fire safety inspections of these types of gatherings to insure public safety and compliance with current adopted fire codes.

Michael P. Dmuchowski
Frederick County Fire Marshal

Fire Safety Requirements

for

Fairs, Carnivals, Special Events, Etc.



2008 -2009

The following are a majority of the fire safety code requirements that will be enforced during 2008 - 2009 at the various fairs, carnivals and special events. Any exceptions to the code requirements will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Tents - General

- ☐ Tents shall be permitted only on a temporary basis.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 25.2.1)

Flame Propagation Performance

- ☐ All tents fabric shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria contained in NFPA 701, *Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films*.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 25.2.2.1)
- ☐ One of the following shall serve as evidence that the tent fabric materials have the required flame propagation performance:
 1. A certificate or other evidence of acceptance by an organization acceptable to the County Fire Marshal.
 2. A report of tests made by other inspection authorities or organizations acceptable to the County Fire Marshal.**(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 25.2.2.2)**

Location and Spacing

- ☐ There shall be a minimum of 10 feet between stake lines.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 25.2.3.1)
- ☐ Adjacent tents shall be spaced to provide an area to be used as a means of emergency egress. Where 10 feet between stake lines does not meet the requirements for egress, the distance necessary for means of egress shall govern.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 25.2.3.2)
- ☐ Tents not occupied by the public and not used for the storage of combustible material shall be permitted to be erected less than 10 feet from other structures where the County Fire Marshal's Office deems such close spacing safe from hazard to the public.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 25.2.3.3)
- ☐ Tents, each not exceeding 1200 square feet in ground area and located in fairgrounds or similar open spaces, shall not be required to be separated from each other, provided that safety precautions meet the approval of the County Fire Marshal's Office.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 25.2.3.4)
- ☐ The placement of tents relative to other structures shall be at the discretion of the County Fire Marshal, with consideration given to occupancy, use, opening, exposure, and other similar factors.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 25.2.3.5)

Fire Hazards

- ☐ The ground enclosed by any tent, and the ground for a reasonable distance but for not less than 10 feet outside of such tent, shall be cleared of all flammable or combustible material or vegetation that is not used for necessary support equipment. The clearing work shall be accomplished to the satisfaction of the County Fire Marshal prior to the erection of such a tent. The premises shall be kept free from such flammable or combustible materials during the period for which the premises are used by the public.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 25.2.4.1)
- ☐ Smoking shall not be permitted in any tent.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 25.2.4.2)

Commercial Outdoor Cooking Operations

- ☐ Cooking equipment used in fixed, mobile, or temporary concessions, such as trucks, buses, trailers, pavilions, tents or any form of roofed enclosure, shall comply with NFPA 96 (*Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations*) or this chapter.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 50.2.1.9)
- ☐ These requirements apply to commercial outdoor cooking operations such as those that typically take place under a canopy, or tent type structure at fairs, festivals and carnivals. This includes but is not limited to deep-frying, sautéing, and grilling operations.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 50.2.1.10)

Tent and Canopy Requirements

- ☐ Tents or canopies where cooking equipment not protected in accordance with NFPA 96 is located shall be separated from other tents or canopies, shall not be occupied by the public.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 50.2.1.10.1.1)
- ☐ All tent and canopy material shall comply with the flame resistance requirements of Subsection 25.2.2.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 50.2.1.10.1.2)

LP Gas Fuel Requirements

- ☐ LP gas tank size shall be limited to 60 lbs. The total amount of LP gas on site shall not exceed 60 lbs. For each appliance that is rated not more than 80,000 btu/hr. and 120 lbs. For each appliance rated more than 80,000 btu/hr.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 50.2.1.10.2.1)
- ☐ Tanks must be maintained in good physical condition and shall have a valid hydrostatic date stamp.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 50.2.1.10.2.2)
- ☐ Tanks shall be secured in their upright position with a chain, strap or other approved method that prevents the tank from tipping over.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 50.2.1.10.2.3)

- ☐ Tanks shall be located so that they are not accessible to the public. LP gas tanks shall be located at least 5 feet from any cooking or heating equipment or any open flame device.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 50.2.1.10.2.4)
- ☐ All LP gas equipment shall be properly maintained and comply with the requirements of NFPA 58.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 50.2.1.10.2.5)
- ☐ Regulators. Single-stage regulators may not supply equipment that is rated more than 100,000 btu/hr. rating. Two-stage regulators shall be used with equipment that is rated more than 100,000 btu/hr.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 50.2.1.10.2.6)

Extinguisher Requirements

- ☐ An approved portable fire extinguisher having a minimum rating of 20BC shall be provided in any area where cooking equipment is installed.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 50.2.1.10.3.1)
- ☐ An approved Class K extinguisher shall be provided to protect any deep fat frying equipment.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 50.2.1.10.3.2)

General Safety Requirements

- ☐ All electrical cords shall be maintained in a safe condition and shall be secured to prevent damage.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 50.2.1.10.4.1)
- ☐ Movable cooking equipment shall have wheels removed or shall be placed on blocks or otherwise secured to prevent movement of the appliance during operation.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 50.2.1.10.4.2)

Premise Identification and Fire Department Access

- ☐ Building addresses shall be at least 8-inches high and vendor space numbers shall be clearly visible and at least 4 inches high on a contrasting background.
(Frederick County Ordinance #05-01-362)
- ☐ Fire department access roads shall be provided such that any portion of the facility or any portion of an exterior wall of the first story on the building is located not more than 150 feet from the fire department access road as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building or facility.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 18.2.3.2)
- ☐ Fire department access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet; be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of fire apparatus and shall be provided with an all-weather driving surface; and, have a minimum vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 18.2.3.4.1)

- ☐ Fire Lanes shall be maintained free and clear of all obstructions at all times.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 18.2.4)

Crowd Managers

- ☐ Assembly occupancies (occupancies with calculated occupants loads of 50 or more persons) shall be provided with a minimum of one trained crowd manager or crowd manager supervisor. Where the occupant load exceeds 250, additional trained crowd managers or crowd manager supervisors shall be provided at a ratio of 1 crowd manager or crowd manager supervisor for every 250 occupants, unless permitted by the following:
 1. This requirement shall not apply to assembly occupancies used exclusively for religious worship with an occupant load not exceeding 2000.
 2. The ratio of trained crowd managers to occupants shall be permitted to be reduced where, in the opinion of the County Fire Marshal, the existence of an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system and the nature of the event warrant.**(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 20.1.4.6.1)**
- ☐ The crowd manager shall receive approved training in crowd management techniques.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 20.1.4.6.2)

Miscellaneous

- ☐ All wall hangings, displays, draperies, etc. shall not obstruct the fire safety equipment. This includes fire alarm devices and fire extinguishers.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 10.8.1)
- ☐ Electrical equipment and installations shall comply with NFPA 70, *National Electric Code*, 2005 edition.
(NFPA 1, 2006 edition, Section 11.1.2)
- ☐ All inspections shall be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance. Please contact Ms. Caryl Wenger at 301-600-1479 or via e-mail at cwenger@fredco-md.net. If there are any questions, please contact Lt. Charles Green via e-mail at cgreen@fredco-md.net or phone at 301-600-1479.